



City of Casa Grande

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**
404 E Florence Blvd
Casa Grande, AZ 85122
Ph: 520-421-8677
Fax: 520-421-8678

MAY 2011 Issue

**CG MOUNTAIN
TRAILS PROJECT**



Another Fond Farewell. . . Thank You AmeriCorps- Fire Eight!

The City of Casa Grande was fortunate to be granted two teams from the NCCC AmeriCorps program and their volunteer efforts provided not only invaluable trail construction but motivated a multitude of individuals to serve their community in a similar capacity. Media coverage covering the efforts of the AmeriCorps teams was an inspiring catalyst that inspired local churches, scout troops, juvenile detention groups, probationers, and school and athletic groups to attend trail building events on Casa Grande Mountain.

In four months of trail building, the two AmeriCorp NCCC teams constructed over 5 miles of safe and sustainable new trails, truly catapulting the trail building efforts on Casa Grande Mountain. A major emphasis for AmeriCorps is to connect with the local community and promote service learning by giving back. Both teams strived to accomplish this within the small, friendly city of Casa Grande.

FIRE EIGHT, was made up of three young men and seven ladies. FIRE EIGHT began service on March 16 and built well over 10,000 feet of trail during their stay through May 3, 2011. FIRE EIGHT braved scorching temperatures and used various games and singing to break up the monotony of trail building and ignore sore muscles. This team labored through difficult mountain terrain including a monster wash, huge rock ledges, and built the final connection of the signature ridge trail to the biggest trailhead on the north portion of Casa Grande Mountain Park. They created a north to south loop that allows hikers, mountain bikers and equestrian users a five-mile (one way) hike through desert landscapes and rocky overviews. As if their time on the mountain wasn't challenging enough, they also assisted Recreation Staff during the Catfish Rodeo event in March, the City-wide Clean Up in April, the annual Easter Egg Hunt and mentored at our local high schools.

City of Casa Grande staff, Mayor and City Council and trail users will forever appreciate the efforts of the AmeriCorps NCCC teams, FIRE FOUR and FIRE EIGHT. These teams, supported by community volunteers, provided a trail system that not only provides recreation and healthy opportunities for youth and adults but also serves as a draw for visitors, providing much-needed economic stimulus to the community. "A project such as this will have lasting quality-of-life benefits for our community and positively impact many generations for years to come." Mary Johnson, Community Services Director.



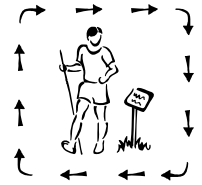
Casa Grande Mountain Park Trails

Please report illegal activity.

Casa Grande PD Non-Emergency # 520-421-8700



or 911 for emergencies



Fencing of BLM South Park Boundary Completed!

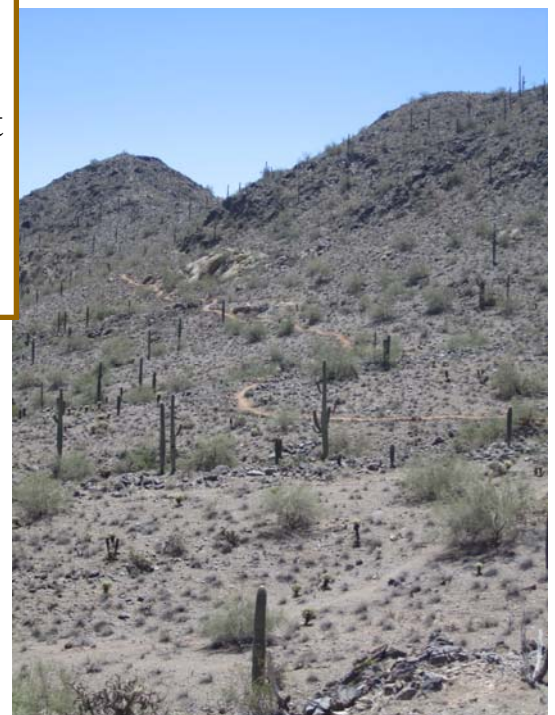


As part of our ongoing efforts to properly manage the land and minimize Illegal Dumping, Shooting, OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) Use, etc, the City has completed fencing of the southern boundary of the park. Signage is posted and people are encouraged to be proactive by calling the Casa Grande Police Department to report illegal activity.

Please call Parks and Recreation, 520-421-8677 to report breaks in the fence or volunteer to repair the fence. Casa Grande Mountain Park is a precious resource, that with your support, will continue to serve as a natural recreational area.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? The Casa Grande Mountain Trails Steering Committee is looking for corporate/organizational sponsors to provide volunteers, lunches and/or financial support for our trail events.

Visit www.cgmountaintrails.org and contact us via our **Sponsor page**.



The long-term goal on Casa Grande Mountain Park includes continuation of design and construction of trails complete with a variety of choices including long or short loop trails, easy to challenging experiences, short and long range views and views of the city and of the desert.

The Casa Grande Mountain Park Trail System promises to be a spectacular local and regional attraction for trail enthusiasts, wildlife watchers and those looking for a natural respite from the City's growing urban environment.

Special Thanks to our 2011 Sponsors:

Mrs. Angie Bolt

Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists

A Lunch Thank You for:

Daybreak Rotary Club

Chick-fil-A & eegee's,

Mayor Bob Jackson and Members of the Casa Grande City Council

City of Casa Grande Youth Commission

Palm Creek RV Resort

City of Casa Grande Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Other incentives provided by McDonald's, Papa Murphy's & Pizza Hut

CREW LEADER CAPS PROVIDED BY PROforma CGE&M



Thank heaven for lunch sponsors!



**Enjoying lunch
after trail building!**

Success during the 2010—2011 Trail Build Season

**Grand
Opening
Planned for
Fall 2011**



Remember when the Casa Grande Mountain Trails Project Steering Committee hosted its inaugural trail building event over a year ago on Saturday, April 10, 2010? This first event yielded 865 feet of trail with just over 30 volunteers. Now, after just one year of community trail builds, we are averaging 100 volunteers and 2,000 feet of trail per event. Total for the year resulted in 624 volunteers dedicating 2,528 hours constructing 11,620 feet or another 2.2 miles of new trail! Because of volunteer efforts (and four months of AmeriCorps construction) with pick axes, shovels, battling cholla cactus, moving large rocks, etc., the City of Casa Grande will be officially opening a large portion of our first trail system on the 1,100 acre Casa Grande Mountain Park for the anticipating public by Fall of 2011. Stay tuned as we post additional information on the website and don't forget to sign up for the events during the 2011-2012 season!



A very special thanks to go out to our event coordinators, Mark Flint, Kent Taylor, Matt Wallin and Ken Wadill, consistent crew leaders, Fred Ruth, Mike Reid, Charlie Helmich, Jim Price, Skip Emerson and Peter Hughes. A great, big thank you for Rod Wood, Parks Superintendent and Anita Avila, Management Analyst who have contributed an inordinate amount of time to insuring the Casa Grande Mountain Project is successfully carried out. I also want to thank Kevin Louis and the great crews from Public Works for constructing two awesome trailheads. We held our final community trail build on Saturday, April 30th and we made a monumental connection; the connection from the Arica Road trailhead to the Ridge Trail. Because of the many people previously mentioned and many others, we will be officially opening up a very substantial trail system this Fall, years earlier than anticipated and you will all be invited! Thank You! **Mary Johnson, Community Services Director**

2011 –2012 Event Dates Determined

Visit www.cgmountaintrails.org to register!

2011- Oct. 22, Nov. 19 & Dec. 10 2012– Jan. 21, Feb. 25, Mar. 24 & Apr. 14